



OFFICE OF THE
Attorney General
STATE CAPITOL
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

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BRUCE E. BABBITT
ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 13, 1975

The Honorable Bartlett S. Fleming
Arizona State Treasurer
State Capitol
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Mr. Raymond S. Long, Director
Department of Administration
State Capitol
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Gentlemen:

We are writing in response to your requests for our opinion on who is authorized to sign state warrants issued on and after March 11, 1975, and on whether the signature plate prepared for state warrants bearing the signature of Raymond S. Long as Assistant Director for Finance, the seal of the Assistant Director for Finance and the countersignature of Raul H. Castro, as Governor, meets the requirements of Arizona Revised Statutes.

We understand that your questions arise as a result of the following sequence of events.

On March 10, 1975, Mr. Raymond S. Long, as Director of the Department of Administration, advised Mr. T. G. Hawkins, then Assistant Director for Finance, that Mr. Hawkins was being terminated as of 12:00 o'clock Noon, April 4, 1975, unless he chose to resign earlier.

On March 10, 1975, the Honorable Raul H. Castro, Governor, approved the appointment of Raymond S. Long as the Assistant Director, Division of Finance, Department of Administration, during the period of vacancy in that office.

In a letter dated March 10, 1975, but not received until March 13, 1975, Mr. Hawkins advised Mr. Long that Mr. Hawkins would not resign, but that Mr. Hawkins considered himself terminated as of 5:00 o'clock P.M., March 10, 1975.

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The Honorable Bartlett S. Fleming
and Mr. Raymond S. Long
March 13, 1975
Page Two

In a letter dated March 13, 1975, Raymond S. Long, as Director of the Department of Administration, notified T.G. Hawkins that the termination of his appointment as Assistant Director for the Division of Finance had been changed to 8:00 o'clock A.M., March 13, 1975.

A new signature plate for state warrants has been prepared bearing the signature of Raymond S. Long, Assistant Director for Finance, the seal of the Assistant Director for Finance and the countersignature of Raul H. Castro, Governor.

From our review of the facts and that law applicable thereto, it is the opinion of the Attorney General that T. G. Hawkins was the duly appointed and acting Assistant Director for Finance until 8:00 o'clock A.M., March 13, 1975, at which time his appointment was terminated and that office became vacant. Upon the occurrence of that vacancy, Mr. Raymond S. Long succeeded to the office of Assistant Director for Finance, Department of Administration.

Accordingly, state warrants issued on March 11 and March 12, 1975, and on March 13, 1975, prior to 8:00 o'clock A.M., bearing the signature of T. G. Hawkins as Assistant Director for Finance, the seal of the Assistant Director for Finance and the countersignature of Raul H. Castro, as Governor, are valid warrants that may be honored and paid by the State Treasurer.

It is the further opinion of the Attorney General that the new signature plate bearing the signature of Raymond S. Long as Assistant Director for Finance, the seal of the Assistant Director for Finance and the countersignature of Raul H. Castro, as Governor, complies with the requirements of Arizona law, and that state warrants bearing such signatures and seal issued

The Honorable Bartlett S. Fleming
and Mr. Raymond S. Long
March 13, 1975
Page Three

after 8:00 o'clock A.M., March 13, 1975, are valid
warrants that may be honored and paid by the State
Treasurer.

Sincerely,

BRUCE E. BABBITT
Attorney General

MICHAEL M. SOPHY
Special Assistant Attorney General

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